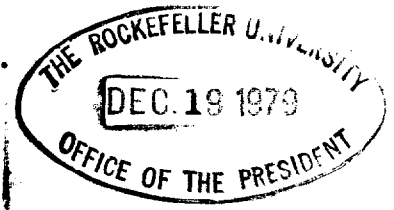




December 12, 1979.



President Joshua Lederberg,  
Rockefeller University,  
York Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Josh,

You were very kind to send me your first annual report as well as "The Future of Biomedical Research and Education".

Your annual report is a warm personal document, happily devoid of that sterilized third-party prose so often found in foundation or university documents. I think Alan Gregg would be content!

I enclose a reprint of my J.A.M.A. editorial which has set a lot of heads nodding, some vertically, others horizontally. I hate to reduce things to dollars and cents, but having had to raise all the funds for a pioneer brain research laboratory here, from outside its university setting, I know what a constant, seemingly wasteful effort it takes.

However, there are funds that liberate researchers, and funds that find them. You have hit it on the head when you warn of governmental funds which disintegrate or desecrate research momentum. People who rely blindly and solely on government grants need an intelligence test.

You have in your University a very different yardstick to apply to private funds. They are not "money" but "freedom". The mere applying for grants to a tax-supported agency implies supplication, not leadership. A mendicant scholar is scarcely a leader. Thus your contributors of free funds contribute twice — they give sustenance and freedom.

When I was lecturing for the dying John Fulton at Yale in 1960 I reminded my listeners of Fred Banting's statement: "It is not within the power of the properly constructed human mind to be satisfied". His room-mate in first year medicine at Toronto, Norman Bethune, certainly proved that! One of Bethune's medical comrades in arms in China, Dr. George Hatem, arrives here tomorrow for a visit. He and Edgar Snow were two Americans who supported Mao in the dark days.

... 2.



President Joshua Lederberg, (cont'd.)

I will send a reprint of my J.A.M.A. paper "Bethune's China" as soon as they arrive from the printers.

Meantime, all the best,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

William C. Gibson, M.D., F.R.C.P.

WCG:vh